

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Executive Order W-137-96

WHEREAS, one of the founding principles of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) was that regulatory decisions involving assessment of the environmental risk to human health must be based on rigorous and internally consistent science, at the level widely recognized to be the best available in order to ensure that state government regulates effectively and reasonably; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment within Cal/EPA is charged with providing sound, objective scientific assessment of risks posed by hazardous substances; and

WHEREAS, the California State Legislature enacted SB 1082 (Calderon, 1993), which mandated a study of the risk assessment practices of Cal/EPA programs by a panel of expert scientists, deemed the Risk Assessment Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, this panel of distinguished scientists have completed their independent review and published their findings and recommendations in a report titled A Review of the California Environmental Protection Agency's Risk Assessment Practices, Policies and Guidelines, and

WHEREAS, the focus of the Risk Assessment Advisory Committee review and recommendations is on ensuring that Cal/EPA's human health risk assessment practices are based on sound, up-to-date science, and are objectively and consistently applied, where appropriate, across all of its boards, departments and offices;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PETE WILSON, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this order to become effective immediately:

1. Cal/EPA, including all of its member boards, departments and offices shall evaluate the Committee's report and develop implementation plans for their respective human health risk assessment programs as part of their strategic planning efforts by June 30, 1997. These strategic plans shall establish a program to implement the Committee's recommendations by January 1, 1999.
2. Cal/EPA, including all of its member boards, departments and offices shall take immediate steps to enhance consistency and foster Agency-wide state and federal uniformity in risk assessment methods and practices. Within sixty days, the Secretary for Environmental Protection Agency is hereby directed to convene a task force of Agency and Department heads within state government to identify those boards, departments and offices that assess the toxicity of, exposure to, or risk from chemicals in the environment to human health in order to include them in the uniformity effort and improvement of risk assessment practices as outlined in the Committee's report. Boards, departments and offices identified through this process shall report back to the task force on their implementation plans by June 30, 1997.

3. To implement the results of the review as mandated by SB 1082, I hereby designate, as authorized by Section I 10 19.6 (a) of the Government Code, Cal/EPA's Office Of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment as the principal state agency for the coordination of procedures, forms and deadlines related to human health risk assessment from chemicals in the environment. All other state agencies shall defer to the principal agency in the performance of their duties in this area, or upon a particular project with respect to procedures, forms, and deadlines, subject to the conditions specified in law. This designation does not apply to the process of any permits pursuant to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code. No part of this order shall be construed to limit the authority of any agency to hold public hearings on any matter within its jurisdiction, and no part of this order shall be construed to authorize any state agency to adopt or implement procedures, forms or deadlines in conflict with those exactly specified in statute or in conflict with the Administrative Procedure Act. Nothing in this order shall be construed to confer upon any state agency decision making authority over substantive matter within another agency's jurisdiction, including any informational and public hearing requirements need to make regulatory and permitting decisions. This order does not apply to any court or office of the judicial branch of government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 10th day of December 1996.

Governor of California

ATTEST:

Secretary of State